

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:Sub
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1. A self-propelled power lawn mower comprising:

first and second rear drive wheels that are independently driveable so as to enable the mower to conduct approximate zero radius turns about a zero radius turning axis;

5 a foot platform for supporting at least one foot of an operator of the mower, said foot platform being located at an elevation less than an elevation of a top edge of at least one of said rear drive wheels;

a deck lift system for raising and lowering a cutter deck assembly, an engine deck, and an engine together as one unit in order to adjust a blade cutting height of the mower;

10 control arms pivotally attached to at least one of the cutter deck and engine deck in order to maintain lateral positioning of the cutter deck assembly and engine deck during the raising and lowering; and

wherein said control arms are short enough in length so that pivoting of the control arms an angle Φ of fifteen (15) degrees either upward or downward during raising or
15 lowering of the cutter deck assembly causes the cutter deck assembly to move a vertical distance "d" no more than about 2.5 inches.

2. The mower of claim 1, wherein said control arms are short enough in length so that pivoting of the control arms an angle Φ of fifteen (15) degrees either upward or downward during raising or lowering of the cutter deck assembly causes the cutter deck
20 assembly to move a vertical distance "d" no more than about 2.0 inches.

3. The mower of claim 2, wherein said control arms are short enough in length so that pivoting of the control arms an angle Φ of fifteen (15) degrees either upward or downward during raising or lowering of the cutter deck assembly causes the cutter deck assembly to move a vertical distance "d" no more than about 1.8 inches.

4. The mower of claim 1, wherein a pivot axis about which the control arms pivot is defined by apertures in control arm support tabs provided on a tractor frame structure.

Sub A2 5. ~~The mower of claim 4, wherein the control arms are pivotally connected between said cutter deck assembly and a tractor frame structure.~~

6. The mower of claim 5, wherein the control arms are pivotally connected to a front wall of the tractor frame structure via control arm support tabs, each of said control arm support tabs being rigidly affixed to the tractor frame structure and having an aperture defined therein for defining a pivot axis of the corresponding control arm.

7. The mower of claim 1, wherein said engine deck is rigidly affixed to said cutter deck assembly so that a plane defined by said engine deck upon which the engine is mounted is at an elevation above an elevation defined by a top surface of said cutter deck.

8. The mower of claim 1, wherein a rear edge of said engine deck extends over top of, and rearwardly of, rearwardmost ends of said control arms.

Sub A3 9. ~~A power mower comprising:~~

at least one drive wheel;

an engine deck structure upon which an engine is mounted;

a cutter deck assembly for housing one or more cutting blades for cutting grass;
 a deck lift system for raising and lowering the cutter deck assembly, the engine
 deck, and the engine together as a unit in order to adjust a blade cutting height of the
 mower; and

5 wherein a control arm, for helping maintaining lateral positioning of the cutter
 deck assembly during the raising and lowering, is short enough in length so that pivoting
 of the control arm an angle Φ of fifteen (15) degrees during raising or lowering of the
 cutter deck assembly causes the cutter deck assembly to move a vertical distance "d" of
 no more than about 2.5 inches.

10 10. The mower of claim 9, wherein said control arm is short enough in length so
 that pivoting of the control arm an angle Φ of fifteen (15) degrees during raising or
 lowering of the cutter deck assembly causes the cutter deck assembly to move a vertical
 distance "d" no more than about 2.0 inches.

15 11. The mower of claim 9, wherein said control arm is short enough in length so
 that pivoting of the control arm an angle Φ of fifteen (15) degrees either upward or
 downward during raising or lowering of the cutter deck assembly causes the cutter deck
 assembly to move a vertical distance "d" no more than about 1.8 inches.

20 12. The mower of claim 9, wherein a pivot axis about which the control arm
 pivots is defined by apertures in control arm support tabs provided on a tractor frame
 structure.

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13. A self-propelled power lawn mower comprising:

at least one drive wheel;

a cutter deck assembly;

an engine;

- 5 a deck lift system for raising and lowering the cutter deck assembly and engine together in order to adjust a blade cutting height of the mower; and
- pivoting control arms for helping maintain lateral positioning of the cutter deck assembly and engine during the raising and lowering.

16 14. The mower of claim 13, wherein said control arms are short enough in length so that pivoting of the control arms an angle Φ of fifteen (15) degrees either upward or downward during raising or lowering of the cutter deck assembly causes the cutter deck assembly to move a vertical distance "d" no more than about 2.5 inches.

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